

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 FEBRUARY 1982

Israel

Begin, Peres Speeches -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin and opposition leader Shimon Peres, in speeches to the Knesset carried by Jerusalem radio, discussed U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's proposal to supply Jordan with F-16 planes and mobile Hawk surface-to-air missiles. Directly addressing U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Begin said that last September the President had promised to maintain the U.S. commitment to Israel's security and to preserve its qualitative edge in weapons. Claiming that Jordan and Iraq have a joint military command and noting a 5 February official announcement by Saudi Arabia that it is a confrontation state, Begin argued that if another war were forced upon Israel, it would have to face the joint forces of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya and others. According to Begin, Israel would thus have to face a force of over 9,000 tanks, 1,400 fighter planes and over 6,000 artillery pieces. Begin expressed the hope that President Reagan, "a friend of Israel," would not permit the sale to Jordan of F-16 planes, which could reach Israeli population centers within minutes, or mobile Hawk missiles, which would annul or weaken the Israeli Air Force's deterrent strength. Such sales, Begin said, would make a mockery of a commitment imposed by a decision of Congress and violate an explicit U.S. promise, leading to the obliteration of not only the quantitative but the qualitative edge. Begin added at this point that Reagan had assured him the United States would guarantee Israel both a quantitative and a qualitative edge.

Referring to a 15 February statement by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Begin said it is unclear whether Weinberger spoke for himself or the U.S. Government in his statements on selling arms to Jordan. But in view of the "grave danger to our nation's security," Begin urged the Knesset to adopt a resolution making Israel's stand clear.

In a speech supporting a joint Knesset resolution, Peres maintained that the United States won a special status in Egypt over the Soviet Union not by competing in the supply of arms but by proving it could grant Egypt peace. By offering Jordan arms without demanding it support the Camp David accords, Weinberger is increasing Jordan's inclination to refuse peace, Peres contended.

Knesset Resolution -- Jerusalem radio reported that by a vote of 88 to 3 the Knesset adopted a resolution that expressed deep concern over the proposal to supply Jordan with F-16 aircraft and improved Hawk missiles, thereby "rescinding the obligation to maintain the missiles' immobility"; maintained that supplying sophisticated arms to a confrontation state on the eastern front constitutes a grave danger to Israel; and urged the U.S. Government, in accordance with presidential declarations and a congressional resolution, to avoid placing Israel in such grave danger.

Shamir-Glenn Conversation -- According to Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a conversation with visiting U.S. Senator John Glenn in which Shamir expressed amazement that Weinberger had offered to sell Hawk missiles to Jordan despite the fact that Jordan had not requested them.

Press Comment -- HA'ARETZ's military expert, commenting on the proposed missile and F-16 deal with Jordan, argued that conclusion of such a deal would increase the Arab states' ability to neutralize Israeli airfields and allow them to deal Israel a "catastrophic blow." The Jerusalem POST contended that U.S. arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which refuse to "pay the price of peace," may lead Egypt to conclude that it too can afford to neglect the peace process without losing its influence in Washington.

'Evron Statements -- According to Jerusalem radio, former Israeli Ambassador to Washington Efrayim 'Evron told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that the Reagan administration is expressing a lack of trust in Israel unparalleled in relations between the two countries.

Jordan

King Husayn Interview -- In an interview published in Kuwait's AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, King Husayn said that during his visit to the United States he had explained that Jordan's agreement to purchase missiles from the Soviet Union was final and is not open to discussion. He added that Jordan is awaiting the arrival of these weapons. The king refused to say whether crews had been sent to the USSR to train in using the missiles and whether they will be put at Iraq's disposal. Husayn also confirmed that he had offered military aid to Bahrain after a sabotage plot was discovered in that country, adding that the Iranian threat to the Gulf by creating sedition and attempting to expand at the expense of the Arab nation still exists.

Badran Statements -- Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in an address to a closed session of the National Consultative Council, reported by Amman radio, disclosed that citizens from fraternal Arab countries had volunteered in the Jordanian Al-Yarmuk forces and are currently receiving training together with Jordanian volunteers. According to the radio, Badran also said that the frenzied Israeli campaign against Jordan purchasing sophisticated U.S. weapons shows that Israel views peace in the region as capitulation to its will in light of its current military superiority.

Syria

Security Situation -- Damascus television reported on 12 February that security forces were successfully continuing their search for Muslim Brotherhood hideouts in Hamah, capturing dozens of persons and hundreds of weapons. The report said the Hamah authorities would reopen the Damascus-Homs-Aleppo highway on 14 February. Monte Carlo radio reported on 15 February that travelers in Damascus confirmed that the highway had been reopened and stressed that life is gradually returning to normal in Hamah. However, according to a later radio report, Hamah was still isolated with movement to and from the city impossible. AFP reported on 15 February that government troops were still trying to flush out rebels from caves west of the city.

Earlier, AFP had cited well-informed sources in Turkey as asserting that the Syrian Army's 47th Brigade had defected to the rebels, who controlled large portions of the Aleppo-Hamah road. A Voice of Lebanon radio report made similar claims and said the rebels had taken over a subsidiary station of Damascus radio. The radio also said that residential quarters of Hamah had been devastated and spoke of over 4,000 casualties in the city. Meanwhile, Baghdad radio's Voice of Arab Syria reported other clashes in Latakia and Aleppo on 14 February. While it reiterated claims that opposition forces had captured the Aleppo radio station, Aleppo radio was still heard broadcasting in parallel with Damascus radio. Over the weekend, Damascus radio broadcast reports of cables from popular, vocational and political organizations in Aleppo, stressing their support for President Hafiz al-Asad's government and their opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood. On the other hand, the Voice of Arab Syria said workers were staging a general strike in Homs, Aleppo and Latakia in response to calls by the "nationalist opposition."

Government, Opposition Comment -- A 13 February TISHRIN editorial reported by SANA said the U.S. statements about the events in Hamah revealed the United States' direct link with the Muslim Brotherhood and provided the Syrian people with "cogent proof" about the organization's identity and about the supporters and suppliers of its crime. TISHRIN said the United States is concerned about the situation in Syria because it knows that the Muslim Brotherhood has collapsed and is no longer capable of playing any role.

In a statement broadcast by the Voice of Arab Syria on 14 February, the "Provisional Regional Command" of the Ba'th Party called on all national forces in Syria to unite and escalate the armed struggle against the Al-Asad regime, which the statement accused of collaborating with Israel and Iran. The Provisional Command appealed to Arab governments to define their stand toward the events in Syria.

Territorial Waters Extension -- According to Voice of Lebanon radio, President Al-Asad issued a decree extending Syria's territorial waters opposite Latakia to 50 miles in reply to Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Inter-Arab Affairs

A statement issued by the Arab League Council at the conclusion of its emergency session in Tunis on 13 February, the text of which was transmitted by SANA, condemned U.S. support for Israel and asked the U.S. Government to stop its aid to Israel, especially military and financial aid. Denouncing the stand on Arab rights adopted by Japan and some European states, the statement noted that an inter-Arab ministerial committee will be set up to evaluate relations between the Arab countries and those states that support Israel. Citing conference sources, KUNA reported that Syria's proposals for an Arab boycott of U.S. products, banks and businesses were not adopted. KUNA said Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's leniency on this issue and his willingness to negotiate with the moderate, oil-exporting Arab countries may have been prompted by promises of increased aid from them to further Syria's objective of establishing a strategic balance with Israel. In a press conference after the session, reported by SANA, Khaddam stressed that the main pillar of Arab confrontation with Israel is the establishment of a strategic balance. He also said the council resolutions are the best possible under current Arab circumstances. According to an earlier SANA report, Khaddam told the closed session of the Arab League Council that Syrian territories are open to any Arab country wishing to participate in confronting Israel. All the Arab countries can fully participate and can join Syria "on the land and in the decisionmaking," he said.

Egypt

Appeal on Detainees -- AFP reported that the government had appealed to the high court against the administrative court's decision to free all 1,536 people jailed last September by the late President Anwar as-Sadat. Noting that the government has refused to order the release of the remaining detainees, AFP said court officials have been angered by the government's stand and have called for the dismissal of the justice minister.

Mubarak Speech -- In a speech to the expanded economic conference on 13 February, broadcast by Cairo radio, President Husni Mubarak stressed the need for the conferees to crystallize the debate on the economy with a view to laying down a framework for the development plan and drawing up detailed steps for implementation. He told the assembled experts to avoid issuing general recommendations that do nothing to solve problems. Mubarak also stressed the need for measures to reduce population growth.

Libyan Border -- According to MENA, Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said nothing at present warrants the opening of Egypt's border with Libya because the latter is still concentrating forces in the border area. Ghazalah said the border cannot be opened before conditions change and matters are normalized.

Lebanon

In a statement broadcast by the Voice of Palestine, the National Movement denounced the government's plan to deploy the Lebanese Army in the Tyre and an-Nabatiyah areas. The radio also noted PLO contacts with the Soviet Union, the Nonaligned Movement and Saudi Arabia connected with the possibility of an Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. According to Beirut radio, the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH reported that the Soviet Union had assured the PLO that Moscow would not sit idly by in the event of an Israeli attack.

Saudi Arabia

Citing 'UKAZ, Kuwait radio reported that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said Israel will never accept peace except through military defeat or the adoption by European countries and the United States of a stand close to that of the Arabs. The foreign minister also said that the Arab economic boycott observed by the Gulf countries in 1973 could be repeated if circumstances made it necessary.

Information Minister's Statement -- According to SPA, Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani told the GULF NEWS AGENCY that the task of the Saudi-U.S. joint committee established during Weinberger's recent visit to Saudi Arabia will be confined to the kingdom's followup of military purchases from and projects with the United States. Yamani denied that the kingdom had ever concluded secret agreements at the expense of Arab or Islamic countries. Another SPA item said that Yamani also denied an AFP report alleging that a group of PDRY citizens are training in Saudi Arabia to carry out subversive activities in their homeland.

PDRY

Aden radio announced that security organs had apprehended a gang of terrorists who infiltrated into the country to blow up economic installations and engage in other acts of sabotage designed to shake the country's stability and security. According to the radio, a security source stated that "known external forces" are behind the training, organizing and financing of the group. The radio said in another report that the prosecutor stressed on the first day of the gang's trial that their crime is all the greater because they are Yemenis.

Iran

Khomeyni Health -- The clandestine Voice of Iran reported rumors that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's health has deteriorated and that he may be taken to the FRG or Switzerland for heart treatment.

USSR Contract -- At the conclusion of his visit to Moscow, Energy Minister Hasan Ghafuri-Fard announced the signing of a contract with the Soviet Union for the resumption of construction of two power stations, AFP reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi military communiques carried by INA over the weekend claimed renewed successes in the Bostan area. The 14 February communique said Iraqi forces killed 200 Iranians in the latest round of fighting there while an Iraqi military spokesman said in a statement reported the same day by INA that the Iranians had lost 7,700 dead as a result of Iraq's Bostan area offensive, which began on 6 February.

On the other hand, INA said the Iraqi attacks have proved fruitless despite attempts by President Saddam Husayn personally to supervise and rally his forces. INA said 40 Iraqis were killed in an abortive attack in the Chazzabeh gorge on 13 February and also claimed that the Iraqis had sustained 2,000 casualties and lost 50 tanks in their attacks in the Bostan and Chazzabeh areas.

Correction to Review of 12 February

Page 1, fifth paragraph, line two should read: "...security police arrested 31 persons constituting an...."

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BARIALAY DENIES REPORTED BOMBING OF QANDAHAR

PM151613 Paris LE MATIN in French 3 Feb 82 p 10

[B.P. Paris interview with Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Afghan delegation to the PCF Congress: "The 'Lies of the Imperialist Press'; Barialay, an Official of the Afghan Regime, Denies the bombing of Qandahar in an Interview With LE MATIN" -- date not given]

[Text] A representative of the ruling Afghan party arrived in Paris Monday evening to attend the PCF [French Communist Party] Congress. In an interview with LE MATIN, he categorically denied the stories of the bombing of Qandahar. This, as indeed much other news, is for him part of the war which the "imperialist media" have mounted against the Afghan revolution.

Mahmud Barialay, 39, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, has just arrived in Paris to attend the PCF Congress. Of medium build, plump and smiling, he sports the moustache of party members (the mujahidin prefer a beard) and the certainties of those who are "moving with history".

It must be noted that he has been a member of the PDPA for 18 years. He graduated from school in Kabul and took his master's degree in economics in Moscow. He has already been to France, at the end of 1979 "for a few months" during the dictatorship of Amin, who was overthrown during the Soviet intervention at the end of December 1979.

If we are to believe him, "not only the cities but also the whole of the countryside are under the control of the DRA Government." The rest is "the result of lies and slander. Thus, it is said that 400 people have been killed in bombings at Qandahar. But where are the photos proving that the city was destroyed?" he asks. "I myself have been reported killed several times in the Western press, as has our prime minister. They never retracted it afterwards."

The "limited contingents" of the Soviet Army are in Afghanistan solely to help the government to deal with the "imperialist interference" which has contributed to the "formation of counterrevolutionary gangs." These are feudals and monarchists. On the Pakistan border there are dozens of camps with American, Chinese and other instructors equipped with the most sophisticated arms. If a foreign country brought thousands of mercenaries into France, where would you be? Just look at the result of the action of the Red Brigades in Italy."

Mahmud Barialay is, however, rather grieved at the hostile attitude of the French socialist government. But he thinks that here again it is the bad influence of the media which is responsible. "Of course," he explains, "we rejoice at any victory by the democratic forces in Europe. But unfortunately those who speak today in the name of socialism in France are under the influence of the media. We believe that the mass media in France are still under the influence of people who want to poison relations between our two countries. Our ideals of freedom, progress and justice are the same as the socialists'. That is why we are very sad at the stance of Francois Mitterrand, which does not correspond with the socialist ideals upheld in France. We think that Mitterrand is not aware of what is going on in our country and that one day the Socialist Party will understand."

On the other hand, the PCF "enjoys very great prestige in the international revolutionary movement. Its position is clear, precise and just. It is a very great party with great prestige. Despite the pressure of the media, the PCF has honestly defended our revolution. Those who defend the Afghan revolution are upholding justice, civilization, rights and progress in the world."

One thing is sure. Mahmud Barialay is not tormented with doubt. But, for the moment, he cannot guarantee that independent journalists will be able to gain access to his country in order to confirm what he says. A pity.

SOVIET, AFGHAN FORCES CAPTURE QANDAHAR, HERAT

BK161307 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Islamabad, 16 Feb (AFP) -- Combined Soviet and Afghan forces have recaptured Qandahar and Herat, Afghanistan's second and third largest cities, establishing a measure of control they have not had for several months, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The government forces have apparently been able to take advantage of winter conditions to launch major offensives against strongholds across the country of the Moslem resistance fighters opposed to Soviet troops that entered the country in December 1979.

Hundreds of people were believed to have died during shelling at Qandahar, in the south of the country, late last month. Soviet and Afghan troops are now patrolling the cities at will, without encountering any opposition, an Afghan source who visited the city said.

Mujahidin Moslem fighters, who had occupied the city centre from dusk for nearly a year, have withdrawn, apparently at the request of local people.

Kabul radio has said the city was calm, and has denied that civilians had come under bombardment during the government offensive.

Extensive patrols were also reported at Herat, in the west of the country near the border with Iran, with checkpoints operations up to 15 kms (10 miles) from the city.

Last Wednesday, one week after a bomb attack on the governor's residence, the Soviet Army surrounded the town and searched houses. They met little resistance.

The Soviet forces rounded up several residents and herded them into one of the stadiums where informers -- masked to prevent reprisals later -- pointed out the mujahidin, the diplomatic sources said.

The denounced mujahidin were then taken off to an undisclosed destination, probably a detention centre, while their fellow citizens were released, the sources added.

Last Tuesday two attacks were reported at Kabul.

Radio Kabul confirmed the killing by a commando of police Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Mabi, while a grenade hurled at the home of the deputy education minister, Sarwa Mengal, caused only material damage.

Fearing further attacks, sentries on guard outside the ministry are under orders not to allow passers-by to approach too close, ordering them to cross to the other side of the road.

Despite the operations at Herat and Qandahar, and the isolated attacks, the capital has remained calm. Diplomats have attributed this to cold and snow, which have driven the mujahidin back to the surrounding mountains.

Operations were also reported from north of Kabul, in Parvan Province, and the demolition of houses has continued along the road from Kabul to the Soviet border to clear the verges and reduce the risk of ambush.

A colonel in charge of the operation was captured last Thursday and burnt alive in his vehicle near the village of Hussain Kot, sources at Kabul said.

From their golf course at Karga to the north of the town, diplomats have also said they had seen helicopter bombardments in the Paghman region, 20 kms (15 miles) from the capital.

Despite incessant fighting there in recent months, the region has remained mostly under the control of the resistance forces.

One Afghan source in Kabul, who is said to be in touch with the Moslem resistance fighters, said the territory conceded to the government troops would be retaken in the spring. He added that the government would not be able to hold any of the land it has captured in recent weeks.

KARMAL ADDRESSES PARTY-GOVERNMENT SESSION

LD122314 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] The third joint session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Council of Ministers commission, chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, was held yesterday afternoon in the Revolutionary Council headquarters to discuss land reform. The session discussed practical actions for the continuation of a just and democratic implementation of land reform in the country.

Babrak Karmal described the just and democratic solution of the problem of land and water in the DRA, aimed at realizing the April Revolution's objectives, as an outstanding objective directly related to the progressive improvement of the socioeconomic and political life of the country.

Babrak Karmal added that the healthy agrarian policy and the actions of the party and government regarding the implementation of land reform in the country, have attracted the interest and support of the toiling peasants.

Babrak Karmal reiterated that the implementation of land reform is the essential condition for the country's socioeconomic development, to secure economic democracy, growth of the productive forces in agriculture, doing away with backward productive relations and to eliminate the feudal and semifeudal heritage. Hence, it is necessary that the planned programs in connection with just and democratic continuation of the implementation of land reform in the country should be realized more explicitly and relentlessly; all party, social and government organizations, with the broad participation of the toiling peasants, should take an active part in this important and formidable task.

The joint session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Council of Ministers' commission decided that a broad meeting should be formed in Kabul in the near future with the participation of secretaries of provincial party committees, governors, officials in charge of agriculture and land reform, representatives of the social organizations, representatives of the agricultural cooperatives and peasants.

KESHTMAND ATTENDS GENERAL STAFF PARTY MEETING

LD152142 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] In view of the PDPA Central Committee plenum resolutions and the party organizational instructions, the party conference of the general staff headquarters opened today, attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; and Dr Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

At the opening, Nur Ahmad Nur conveyed warm greetings from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to the participants of the party conference and, addressing the participants in his revolutionary statement, said:

We no longer doubt that in the militant ranks of our heroic and courageous army not only party comrades, but thousands of our nonparty noble and patriotic compatriots are fighting with courage and bravery against the counterrevolutionary elements and traitors to the people, homeland and revolution and that they are defending mainly the aspirations of the glorious April Revolution and the honor of the people and homeland. They are completely aware and confident that the PDPA Central Committee, its Politburo and the person of Babrak Karmal pay great attention to army life.

The work of the conference was carried out in two parts in an atmosphere of complete unity and solidarity in accordance with the agenda. A comprehensive report concerning the work of party organizations in implementing duties outlined by the Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum was presented by Maj Gen Baba Jan, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and chief of general staff of the DRA Armed Forces, in which detailed descriptions were given about the indefatigable struggle and revolutionary fight of the armed forces staff in eliminating counterrevolutionary bands, the daily increase in and expansion of the party ranks, the successful progress of unity and solidarity, the fruitful results of ideological and political work, combat training and the further strengthening of discipline in our revolutionary armed forces.

Then statements were made regarding the basic report and were welcomed and affirmed by the participants. The progress of the conference work was assessed by Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of the PDPA Central Committee and acting minister of national defense, who attributed the successful progress of the conference to the political and ideological awareness and shrewdness of the participants. The acting minister of defense also stressed improving the everyday situation in raising the standard of combat readiness by scientifically leading and directing forces toward annihilating the counterrevolutionary elements and the enemies of the homeland and toward the strengthening, consolidation and solidarity of party ranks, and he pointed out the great and important tasks facing party members.

In the first part of the conference, resolutions concerning the loyalty of the armed forces staff to the party and government and their readiness for every kind of self-sacrifice in the realization of the aims of the April Revolution and in the implementation of the resolutions of the seventh plenum were read and unanimously affirmed.

In the second part of the conference, the representatives of the general staff headquarters party members were elected to take part in the national conference of the PDPA.

In conclusion, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, who was unanimously elected by the conference as a representative to the all-PDPA conference, expressed his gratitude for the confidence shown in him and spoke about the importance of convening the PDPA national conference. His statement was applauded by the conference participants.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM LIBYA -- Kabul, 7 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- An Afghan delegation, headed by Dr Mehrabuddin Paktiawal, first vice president of the state planning committee of the DRA, returned today from Libya. The Afghan delegation has held fruitful discussions with Libyan authorities on technical and economic cooperation. The Libyan authorities have expressed their full participation in financing a number of development projects in the context of social and economic development plan of the DRA, Dr Paktiawal said. The Afghan delegation on its way to Libya attended the fifth session of the executive board of the Agricultural Development International Fund in Rome and also held useful talks with the authorities of UN food and agriculture organization, Dr Paktiawal added. On their return home, the Afghan delegation has also negotiated with the Indian authorities in Delhi on mutual economic and technical cooperation. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 7 Feb 82 LD]

HAQ CALLS FOR CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH USSR

GF121156 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Feb 7 -- President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said today that Pakistan wanted to have most cordial relations with the Soviet Union and a greater cooperation with that country in the fields of science and technology.

The Soviet Union was not only a next-door neighbor to Pakistan, but also a big power, and Pakistan fully realised its importance, he added, while laying the foundation-stone of Fecto-Belarus tractor plant being installed in the private sector with the cooperation of the Soviet Union, on Sheikhpura Road, about 18 kilometres from here.

The Soviet ambassador, Mr Vitaliy S. Smirnov, and a special Russian delegation also attended the ceremony.

The president said that the Soviet Union had made great advancement in the fields of science and technology in the recent past, and a number of developed countries were deriving benefit from it.

Expressing his gratitude to the people and the Government of the Soviet Union for their cooperation in the installation of the first tractor manufacturing plant in this country, President Zia pointed out that Pakistan and the Soviet Union were already cooperating with each other in the economic field and the Soviet economic and technical assistance in the construction of the steel mills and the Guddu thermal power station were most outstanding in this respect.

He believed that the Soviet assistance in the establishment of a tractor plant would greatly contribute towards bringing about a revolution in the agriculture of Pakistan.

HAQ URGES POOLING OF ISLAMIC RESOURCES

BK141705 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Excerpt] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has impressed upon the urgent need for the Islamic countries to pool their resources to accelerate the pace of economic development and achieve self-reliance. [sentence as heard]

Inaugurating the 4-day conference of the Islamic industries ministers in Islamabad this morning, he called for a realistic assessment of how the resources of the Islamic countries can be mobilized and developed for the progress of the Islamic world as a whole. The president referred to the vast material and manpower resources possessed by the Islamic countries. He said they can be self-reliant centers of growth as they occupied one fifth of the world, had a population of about 1 billion and possessed nearly one third of the world revenue and large investible funds generated by oil wells.

He emphasized the need for developing agriculture as an industry and acquiring modern technology for proper development of agriculture and industry. In this regard he also called for benefitting from the knowledge and experience of the developed world and utilizing experience of Muslim scientists serving in alien lands so as to end their dependence on others. The president particularly urged the conference to (?adhere itself) to four main aspects. These are: Firstly, what is the best and the most suitable way of planning joint ventures in Islamic countries; secondly, how can they organize the flow of financial resources necessary for these ventures; thirdly, what are the ways and means for acquiring the most suitable modern technology; and fourthly, how can they utilize their resources including agriculture and manpower to implement these ventures for mutual benefit.

He assured Pakistan's all possible cooperation for successfully implementing an agreed action program.

KHOMAYNI ADVISES VELAYATI ON UPCOMING TRIP

LD131132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, accompanied by the new ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey, Mr Ganjidust, was this morning received in audience by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic.

The minister of foreign affairs was interviewed after the audience. He said: After the introduction of the new ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey, the imam of the Islamic nation issued guidelines on my future trip to Algeria and Libya.

The minister of foreign affairs added: My trip is in response to invitations by the two countries' foreign ministers.

KHOMAYNI CANCELS APPOINTMENTS FOR 2 WEEKS

LD131726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] The following announcement was issued by the office of Imam Khomeyni:

In His exalted name. This is to inform everyone that His Eminence Imam Khomeyni will not receive any visitors or have any meetings for 15 days beginning 14 February. All those who have appointments to meet him during this period are requested to refer to this office after this 2-week period.

[Signed] Office of Imam Khomeyni, 13 February 1982

CLANDESTINE REPORTS RUMORS OF KHOMAYNI'S DEATH

GF150540 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] According to our correspondent in the capital, following the news that Khomeyni will not see anyone for 2 weeks -- that is, until the beginning of March [words indistinct] -- it is being rumored that his heart condition has taken a turn for the worse.

Observers say that it is not the first time that Khomeyni has suspended his activities for some time. However, this decision was made suddenly. In fact, high-level sources in the regime [words indistinct]. It is rumored that due to his heart condition [words indistinct] and that he might be taken to the FRG or Switzerland.

It is being said in Tehran that during the last visit of the mullahs' health minister to Khomeyni, details and difficulties of Khomeyni's trip to a Western hospital were reviewed. Our correspondent adds that the regime's authorities, and particularly Khomeyni's office in Jamaran, are not prepared to confirm or deny these reports.

In a situation in which the people of Iran (?have been spared) from listening to interviews, terrorizing [word indistinct] and meaningless words of Khomeyni, the president of the mullahs revealed his famed ambitiousness and openly stated his opposition to Khomeyni's orders.

Mullah 'Ali Musavi-Khamene'i, in an interview with NEWSWEEK, without any particular reference to the seriousness of Khomeyni's condition, announced indirectly that the death of the leader of the revolution is near and it can be said that as soon as possible an advisory council should be formed as a replacement for the old man of Jamaran.

Mullah Musavi-Khamene'i said that the majlis of experts [khobregan] will hold a session in the near future in order to select from three to five individuals from among the authorities in the regime as candidates for membership in an advisory council. These individuals would take over running the affairs of the country in the event of Khomeyni's death.

According to political (?sources), the overt opposition of some of the mullahs to the successor of Khomeyni, Mullah Montazeri, has opened a new page in the stormy political scene of the ruling mullahs. It may result in a bloody and unprecedented clash between the two opposing groups.

Khamene'i's interview with NEWSWEEK indicates that not only will he be a member of the advisory council, but he also aspires to be its president. Political observers recall that the president of the mullahs' regime has very close relations with the Soviet Union, and his election to the presidency, the selection of his half-brother as prime minister and even his remarks to NEWSWEEK all are within the framework of a plan that has been designed and implemented by Moscow. It is not without basis that in this interview Khamene'i announced his willingness to buy arms from the (?Soviets).

KHAMENE'I: NEWS AGENCIES DISTORTED INTERVIEW

LD151818 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 15 Feb (IRNA) -- President Khamene'i's bureau this morning issued a statement in connection with the president's January 29th interview with the NEWSWEEK magazine.

The statement said that news agencies have distorted the interview and have published parts of it under misleading headlines. To inform the nation and in order to prevent any misunderstanding, the full text of the president's interview with the said weekly will be published in the future, the statement added. Misinterpretation by the news agencies regarding the formation of a leadership council led the news agencies to the conclusion that Imam Khomeyni was ill.

Another point distorted in this interview was regarding Iran's ties with the Soviet Union, which have always been abused by imperialist news agencies.

President Khamene'i's statement on buying arms from various suppliers was cited by the news agencies to insinuate that Iran had tilted to the U.S.S.R. with the former now directly seeking more arms from the latter.

The interview with President Khamene'i is to be published in the next week's issue of NEWSWEEK.

KHAMENE'I INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH WEST

LD111900 Hamburg DPA in German 1635 GMT 11 Feb 82

[Text] Mannheim, 11 Feb (DPA) -- Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has underlined Tehran's interest in good relations with the Federal Republic and other Western European countries. In an interview with MANNHEIMER MORGEN (Friday edition) -- the first given to a Western paper by the president since his inauguration in October 1981 -- he said: "There is no reason why we should not have good relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. But this presupposes that the Federal Republic, like any other state which has political, economic and cultural relations with us, does not allow these relations with us to be detrimentally affected by its relations with the United States."

"There was no 'prima facie' reason not to be well disposed toward the countries of Europe," Khamene'i said. The Iranian revolutionary government "could have maintained sensible relations with all West European countries" if these had not foregone normal relations on account of the United States.

The president intimated that France is an exception within this context. He accused the French Government of actively supporting Iraq in the military conflict with Iran.

Khamene'i said that he sees no signs of an improvement in Iran's relations with the United States.

In his interview with MANNHEIMER MORGAN the president modified his demands for ending the war with Iraq. Thus one of the conditions is an "investigation into the events by an international body with the aim of determining the aggressor and deciding on the corresponding punitive measures." Furthermore, Iran demands the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory and the payment of reparations.

KHAMENE'I WARNS GULF STATES AGAINST U.S.

LD152210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran tonight in an interview made some important comments about the recent trip to the region by U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger and its connection with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the war imposed by Iraq.

The president first referred to the U.S. defense secretary's recent visit to the region and its connection with the visits of the secretary of state and the deputy secretary of defense of that country to Morocco and to some of the Persian Gulf countries. He said: One cannot lightly dismiss this trip. Those sources which are dependent upon America, and some of the news agencies, try to portray the purpose of this trip as mainly to sell arms to some of the countries in the region or as an attempt to confront Soviet influence in the region. However, we have no doubt that the real reason behind this trip is something else.

In our view, this visit is confirmation of an earlier remark by U.S. Secretary of State Haig, who said Islam is the greatest threat in the region. In our view, this visit is aimed at confronting the daily-increasing expansion and influence of Islam and the Islamic revolution in the region.

Referring to the establishment of the American Rapid Deployment Forces in the region and the Bright Star maneuvers in North Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Persian Gulf, and the suspicious and mysterious trips by high-ranking American officials to the region, he said: We feel that, in all these moves, America is worried about the Islamic movement and that, despite all the threats which are used against it, Islam is daily expanding and acquiring a greater depth. The president added: By these moves, America hopes to increase its presence in the Persian Gulf region.

I hereby warn all the governments of the region, especially the Muslim governments in the Persian Gulf region, that the ever-increasing presence of America in the sensitive Persian Gulf region and the Sea of Oman is not in the interest of anyone except the U.S. government itself. As a revolutionary nation, and as a people who regard America as their greatest enemy and who have engaged in a long and difficult struggle in this field and who continue this struggle, we announce that we will not tolerate this daily-increasing presence.

Referring to America's desire to defend the Persian Gulf with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia and the indifference to America's aggressive policies in the region, and noting the harm the U.S. Government does to the Arab and Islamic world, the president said: We are very sorry that in the Muslim-inhabited Persian Gulf region, despite all these problems, America has the temerity to enter the field as a defender of the Arab and Muslim governments of the Persian Gulf.

Concerning the connection between the visit of the U.S. defense secretary and the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran, the president said: We have no doubt that this visit is connected with the war. Referring to America's desire to sell military equipment to Jordan and Jordan's support for the regime of Saddam, he said: Jordan is not fighting anybody and there is no probability of a war breaking out against Jordan. These military weapons will be somewhere other than Jordan, namely, in Iraq. Through Jordan the Americans are, in fact, replenishing the Iraqi stores of weapons and ammunitions. This is something which has been done from the beginning of the war by Jordan and Egypt.

Concerning the connection between this visit and the Persian GCC, Mr Khamene'i said: If those who have come together in that council are thinking of creating a secure atmosphere in the Persian Gulf, their mistake is that this security is being brought about by America. Undoubtedly, America will make use of this opportunity and will place this council at its own service.

Concerning the warning given by the GCC to Iran to refrain from exporting the revolution, the president said: We have repeatedly said that exporting the revolution does not mean interfering in the internal affairs of other countries or plotting coups d'etat against other countries. Our Constitution specifies that we should not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and we will not do so. If the intention of the GCC members is that we should not interfere in their internal affairs, they should know that this aim was achieved before they got together and said so, and we have repeatedly announced it. The export of our revolution means exporting the ideology of the revolution. This is not something which anyone can prevent.

MONTAZERI WARNS JORDAN AGAINST U.S. 'PLOT'

LD131528 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Message issued by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri on 13 February -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim brothers and sisters in Jordan and in other Islamic countries: You are undoubtedly aware of the latest U.S. plot against Jordan.

The United States imposed a colonialist war on Iran through the traitorous Saddam when it found its interests in the region endangered after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the welcome the revolution received from Muslims in the region, who have been beset with injustices dealt by the usurping Israeli regime. Thanks to the resistance of the Islamic nation, the revolutionary forces and the valiant Iranian Army, the Saddam regime is facing collapse. Now, the United States wants to introduce its own pawn, the traitorous king of Jordan, into the arena. By carrying out the disgraceful and bankrupt scheme of sending volunteers from Jordan -- and perhaps from other countries -- to Saddam's aid, several satanic aims are being pursued. Such aims are characterized by diverting Muslim public opinion from the problem of Israeli aggression, making Muslims indifferent toward the problem of the occupation of Palestine and inducing the region's Islamic governments to feel their helplessness in setting up strong and powerful armies.

In this manner the United States, by bringing to power such pawns as the shah of Iran, Saddam, King Husayn, King Hasan, Abd as-Sadat, and by sending its military experts attempted to create armies in the region which would be subservient to U.S. culture. The United States hoped it could utilize these armies at any time toward the achievement of its satanic aims.

The United States also hoped to use these armies to bring about the necessary conditions for the total security of Israel. By instigating the war imposed by Iraq the United States weakened the Iraqi and Iranian armies, which were to a certain extent strong in the region and could have played a momentous role in the war against Israel and world blasphemy.

The United States dissipated vast forces and inflicted extraordinary losses on the Muslims. The United States is now about to bring into battle the Jordanian Army which could pose a danger to Israel. The United States' major goal in hatching this plot is the disintegration of the Jordanian Army, its internal forces and the guarantee of total security for Israel. There is no doubt whatsoever that after the endeavours by the Iraqi Army, the resurgence of the movement within that country and the fiasco of the plot of the imposed war hatched by the United States, the so-called volunteer Jordanian forces cannot have the least effect on the fronts. These Jordanian forces could only be used in bolstering the Western wings which might come to power following the fall of Saddam.

The Muslim nation of Jordan should be aware of the depth of this plot and the inherent dangers for Islam. Islamic and Arab zeal and honor permit Jordan, a country which has itself been subjected to occupation by the Zionist racists, to enter into a war against Islam under U.S. provocations. How could Jordan be content to allow Muslim blood to be split by Muslim hands? The Islamic honor of the zealous Jordanian officers will never allow the depraved Jordanian leaders to perpetrate such treason.

Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran, although it is locked in an imposed war, is about to strengthen the Arab steadfastness front against Israel by sending a military force and to liberate dear Jerusalem with help from its Arab brothers in Syria, Jordan and other Islamic countries. Ever since the first days of its inception, the Islamic revolution of Iran has considered the liberation of Palestine from the hands of usurping Israel. The great leader of the revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, from the very roots of the inception of the Islamic movement in Iran has repeatedly and emphatically referred to the danger posed by Israel for the Islamic world and the Palestine problem.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran for the first time the slogan of "Today Iran and tomorrow Palestine" was proclaimed from the exalted position of the leader of the revolution; our nation has followed this slogan. Our heroic nation maintains that it would, following the conclusion of the imposed war and the withdrawal of the Iraqi aggressors, place its forces at the disposal of the steadfastness front.

Therefore, how could our brother nation in Jordan tolerate such treason by King Husayn and allow the United States to do exactly what it wishes in the region? How could our brother nation approve of the hatching of this new plot to strengthen the foundations of the rotten Israeli regime?

The committed ulema, writers and Muslim students in Jordan, in accordance with their Islamic duty, should expose this plot and prevent with all their might the extension of the imposed U.S. war in the region.

Let the heads of the Persian Gulf states also know that in the end the United States will act toward them as it did toward the defunct shah of Iran. Let them not play so much with Islam, and let them not become the captives of U.S. military treaties concluded against the uprising of the Muslims. Before it is too late return to the ranks of the Muslims. Do not dissipate the vital resources and oil of the Muslims on the markets of the Western colonialists and plunderers. Use these vital resources as an effective weapon in the war against Israel! How will you answer the Almighty when you carry out such treacheries? Tomorrow the Arab nation's history will curse and damn you for plundering its riches. You have become a stain on Arab honor. The Muslims should for years to come bow their heads in shame over you.

I beseech the great God to grant Islam and Muslims victory and greatness, triumph to Islamic combatants and salvation to the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

TEHRAN ASSAILS JORDANIAN AID TO IRAQ

GF160638 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Only Volunteer To Join the War -- King Husayn"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The call U.S. imperialism's lackey, Shah Husayn of Jordan, has made to summon support for the Saddamist forces has met with total failure. Even Jordanian Army personnel have not responded to Shah Husayn's call. Thus, Shah Husayn's conspiracy has ended in failure, just like the plans drawn up by the international oppressors.

The following has drawn our attention: What has led Shah Husayn of Jordan to extend support and protection to Iraq at a time when Saddam at-Tikriti's forces have suffered total defeat before the Islamic Republic's forces and when the self-sacrificing Islamic forces have been scoring victory after victory?

An appropriate reply to this question is the following: The latest assessment of the situation by international imperialism is that if the Iraqi regime continues to move at the same pace, Saddam and the criminal Ba'thist Party will fall. This will mark the end of the last defender of international oppressors and superpowers in the region.

Imperialism has made its move to prevent the Ba'thist Saddamist regime from falling and to encourage its lackeys in the region -- Shah Husayn and other reactionary Arab regimes -- to fight against Iran. The regime that is occupying Jerusalem has opposed the delivery of U.S. military equipment to Jordan. This stand is aimed at concealing the truth and diverting indelible views regarding Shah Husayn. Its intention is to present the pawn of international Zionism -- which is also the executioner of the Palestinian people, the perpetrator of the Black September massacre and the partner of Saddam -- as being anti-Zionist and opposed to the regime that is occupying Jerusalem.

Iran and its people do not want Islamic countries to be harmed. On the contrary, they want everyone to stand his ground in complete solidarity with one another against the enemies of Islam -- particularly against the occupationist regime in Jerusalem and the enemies of Arabs and Islam. They also demand that the raiders and cruel elements that are keeping Islamic countries under their yoke be expelled from Islamic lands. The peoples of the region are well aware of the identities of their enemies, and they demand that they be suppressed.

One should look to the White House to discover what has led the reactionary regimes to remove the struggle from occupied Palestine under various names and excuses and direct it against Islamic Iran. The diversion of the struggle and the violation of the principles of the Islamic masses is a great treachery, and the masses will never forgive their cruel and reactionary rulers.

Although Shah Husayn's support for Saddam has continued since the beginning of the war, it [presumably Jordan] is in no position to stand against the Iranian people, army and other armed units. It should be known that -- until the last drop of their blood has been shed -- the Iranian heroes will fight against the hostile entities that attack the Iranian Islamic revolution and other Islamic countries upon the orders of the United States.

AFP: SOVIETS WALK OUT OF TEHRAN CEREMONY

NC121949 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 12 Feb (AFP) -- Three Soviet military attaches here walked out of a ceremony commemorating the third anniversary of the Iranian revolution when participants in a procession at Azadi Square here trampled on a Soviet flag, diplomatic sources said.

They said the Soviet and U.S. flags were laid out on the sidewalk in front of the official reviewing stand when a member of the procession approached the Soviet officials and shouted "Death to the Soviet Union." The cry was taken up by part of the crowd and the Soviet officials then left in protest.

The Soviet flag was removed from the parade-ground following the incident but the U.S. flag was left lying on the ground, observers said.

PLO OFFICIAL, KHAMENE'I DENY EXISTENCE OF DISCORD

LD121130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the head of the PLO delegation, Mr Khattab, and the official in charge of the politicoideological department of the Al-'Atefah forces, accompanied by the Palestinian ambassador in our country met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning.

During this meeting, which lasted about 2 hours, first the PLO representative, while offering congratulations on the occasion of the start of the fourth year of victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution, made some remarks about the poisonous propaganda of the American and Zionist news services and their allegations on discord between the Iranian revolution and Palestine. He also made some remarks about accusations by these news services and the incorrect positions of some members of the PLO and explained that the responsible authorities of this organization are striving to correct these positions and remove the atmosphere of misunderstanding.

Afterwards, President 'Ali Khamene'i said in a speech: We believe that the Palestinian revolution does not belong only to you; rather, we believe that it is connected and has links with the Islamic revolution of Iran. Our revolution is not complete without the Palestinian revolution. The happy thing for your revolution is that all the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic, just as the revolutionary people of Iran, believe that the Palestinian movement belongs to them and none of us can bear to see your revolution harmed.

During yesterday's celebration of the revolution's victory, our people everywhere were chanting slogans of "Glory to Palestine" together with slogans of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." This deep and positive feeling of emotion that our people express for you creates a justified expectation that Palestinian officials, particularly the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran, will adopt a decisive and clear position on our problems so that our people can feel that the hearts and tongues of their Palestinian brothers are with them.

Because of the good will which exists between the responsible authorities of the PLO and the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are certain that the biased propaganda of the enemies of our two revolutions will not have any effect on our relations.

TEHRAN CARRIES AL-ASAD CABLE ON ANNIVERSARY

LD131234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 82

["Text" of congratulatory telegram sent by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the third anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran]

[Text] His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

It is a pleasure for me to offer my most sincere congratulations and the congratulations of the Syrian nation to Your Excellency and to the fraternal and Muslim Iranian nation on the beginning of the 4th year of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

I wish health and prosperity for Your Excellency and the Iranian nation under the shadow of the Islamic revolution.

We applaud your stance against the Zionist enemy; your support for the Arab nations for the liberation of Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied lands; and your struggle against imperialist America and its ally Israel.

I wish you ever-increasing success.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus

DETAILS ON 13 FEB CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD131526 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that the Cabinet met this morning, chaired by Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister.

The session began with recitations from the glorious Koran. During the session, after a review of the world news, the latest political and social changes of the country were discussed.

The government spokesman, Mr Ahmad Tavakkoli, was interviewed by our correspondent after the session. He said: During today's Cabinet session, the prime minister read a report on his trip to the Esfahan, Sistan va Baluchestan and Kerman Provinces and on the commencement of operation by the second blast furnace in the Esfahan iron foundry. The prime minister said: The blast furnace in Esfahan will be producing iron within the next few days, which will treble the amount of iron produced inside the country, reaching a figure of 2.9 million tons.

The prime minister also noted that a powerful radio transmitter in Konarak, southeast Iran, has become operational, covering countries of the region and East Africa.

The Baluch textile factory in Iranshahr has been made operational by our own expert brothers. This textile plant, originally run by French, Belgian and Swiss experts, stopped operation after the revolution.

The spokesman for the government added: During today's session, the prime minister also informed the Cabinet of the successes achieved by the copper smelting industry in Sarcheshmeh.

According to our correspondent, Mr Tavakkoli presented a report at today's Cabinet session on his trip to Khorasan Province and his inspection of the Shirin sugar factory.

A draft bill on amalgamating hygiene and medical treatment teaching was raised and three of the bill's articles were approved.

During today's Cabinet session, it was agreed that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Velayati, should leave tomorrow for Algeria and Libya. The foreign minister will be accompanied by deputies of the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs and Roads and Transportation and by Petroleum Ministry experts.

During today's session, a draft bill was submitted to the Majlis concerning the sale of government houses.

Also during today's session, at the suggestion of the Interior Ministry and with approval of the Cabinet, Mr 'Aqebat Raf'at was appointed as the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan Province.

DETAILS OF 15 FEB CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD151140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that a Cabinet meeting was held this morning, chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

The Cabinet discussed latest reports from the battlefronts, and the situation in the country and Middle East. The oil minister then briefed the Cabinet on the measures so far taken with regard to gas pipelines from Kangan to the south and north of the country. Referring to the fact that the second Kangan pipeline had been kept in a state of abeyance for some time, he said: The rich deposits in Kangan are a great God-given gift. The area's daily production totals 40 million cubic meters for domestic use and for export. The reserves are expected to last for 300 years. The oil minister then added: On the basis of a recent contract, sections of these pipelines -- God willing -- will be ready for operation within the next 24 months.

Interior Minister Nateq Nuri then spoke and, alluding to the resignation of Mohammad Hasan Tavalla'i, supervisor of the Khuzestan Governorate, praised his services, and introduced Mohammad Foruzandeh as the new governor general of Khuzestan. The Cabinet, having debated the issue, approved the appointment.

SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL HOLDS SESSION 13 FEB

LD132130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Supreme Defense Council met tonight under Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the council; Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Salimi, the minister of defense; Brother Sham'kani, the acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs; and Mr Kamal Gharazi were present.

They discussed matters in connection with the situation at the war fronts, future war plans, the Iraqi mercenaries' recent attack on Chazzabeh pass, Mr Velayati's visit to the countries of the region and the exchange of the POW's families and made the relevant decisions.

Rafsanjani Comments

LD141150 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 14 Feb (IRNA) -- Imam Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said in Tehran yestersav that the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran were lately acting as a fifth column inside the country, engaging in underhand acts to deface the world views of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking after a Supreme Defence Council meeting, he cited a recent attack against the West German ambassador in Tehran, and disturbances in front of the residence of the Zaire, ambassador to Tehran as being malicious acts conceived and enacted by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to recent statements made by the prime minister of Morocco expressing his government's readiness to put any facilities at the disposal of those Jordanian volunteers to fight alongside Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that this was only talk. He added that the Moroccan regime was hostile towards Iran because Iran had good relations with the Polisario Front, currently fighting for independence from Morocco.

Speaking on war issues Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that Saddam had committed certain uncalculated military operations in the western fronts where he suffered dazzling defeats and because of this disseminated false propaganda. He continued that in retaliation Saddam several times attacked Tang-e Chazzebah [as received] six kilometers east of the border.

Iranian forces defending the area captured some Iraqis and the captives said that Saddam himself was in the fronts and at any price wanted to achieve victory. Rafsanjani said that Iraq has used its air and ground forces from the north and south without any result. They also lied, he said, that they had captured Bostan, but Iranian forces paraded in Bostan on Friday proving the baselessness of their claims.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON VISITS BY POWS' FAMILIES

LD141032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Feb 82

["Text" of government statement issued on visits by families of POW's -- date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the initiative taken by Brother Musavi, the prime minister, and also the repeated announcements by the Supreme Defense Council spokesman and the official in charge of international affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the invitation extended to the families of Iraqi POW's to visit Iran, reaffirms that:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to accept the families of all Iraqi POW'S currently in the land of Islam and bosom of Islamic revolution to visit their relatives. This statement confirms the previous official announcements addressed to international sources and should be regarded as an official invitation extended to the said families.

2. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to begin dispatching families of Iranian POW's as soon as the families of Iraqi POW's arrive in Iran.

Note: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran confirms that the program regarding families of Iraqi POW's visiting Iran would be followed by the Government of Iran even if the Government of Iraq refuses to accept the families of Iranian POW's.

3. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes the two countries of Kuwait and Turkey as temporary places of residence for the families of both sides' POW's.

4. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the numerous earlier announcements, had decided on 11 February, the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, as the date for starting this program. Now, at the end of the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the revolution, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again announces that it is ready to begin the exchange program at any time.

5. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to help the smooth running of this program devised by Iran, has formed a headquarters to supervise the acceptance and dispatch of families of POW's, consisting of officials from related ministries and organizations. Details of visits, their duration, itinerary and so forth would be determined by this headquarters with the cooperation of the International Red Cross.

6. The Government of the Islamic Republic, following previous contacts, once again asks the International Red Cross to cooperate with the headquarters for accepting and sending the families of POW's formed in the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to take urgent and necessary steps to obtain the approval of the regime in Baghdad and to prevent the Iraqi leaders from hesitating or refusing to implement this program.

IRNA GIVES REASONS FOR IRAQ'S POW POLICY

LD131148 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 13 Feb (IRNA) -- After resorting to a propaganda attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iraqi regime could no longer maintain its former stance and thus was compelled to withdraw in a fiasco. Some time ago the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran proclaimed that it was ready to host the families of the Iraqi POW's in Iran and show to them the excellent living conditions the POW's enjoyed in Iran.

The Iraqi regime, in return, announced that it was willing to let the families of the Iranian POWs come to Iraq, so that they would be able to meet their loved ones. Suddenly, after a great deal of fervour and longing swept the families of the Iraqi POWs in Iraq, the Iraqi regime announced it had changed its mind. Although at first it had declared it was willing to accept 300 POW's families from Iran, it repudiated that too.

The Iraqi regime did not even try to continue its propaganda warfare against Iran in that regard, and did not try to assume some expedient gestures in that regard to at least accept some people in Iraq as even a gesture.

Political observers in Tehran are of the opinion that six reasons could be listed for the Iraqi regime's sudden change of mind:

1. The mere existence of the Iraqi families in Iran would cause all Saddam's propaganda on Iran on alleged mistreatment of Iraqi POWs to be refuted automatically and since this would be spread in Iraq by the very families of the Iraqi POWs in Iran, this would reveal the true nature of Saddam's lies.
2. The Iraqi regime is afraid of Iraqi families seeking political asylum upon entering Iran so that they would rid themselves of the tyranny of Saddam. Even if the Iraqi regime someday would allow some Iraqis to come to Iran it would select only those people who would not seek political asylum in Iran and the Iraqi regime would use their relatives remaining in Iraq as hostages so that they would not defect.
3. The Iraqi families upon entering Iran would learn the staunch support the Iranian people have for the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Islamic Republic and this would counter Saddam's propaganda inside Iraq.
4. Saddam's regime is afraid that the Iraqi families in Iran would meet with dissident Iraqis who are in Iran at the moment fighting the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and would become more aware of the truth on meeting with those Iraqi strugglers.
5. If the Iraqi regime would consent to the visit of the Iraqis from Iran, it in turn, has to let the Iranians travel to Iraq to see their families, and in that case, all the world would realise the fact that the Iranians have less than one thousand military POW's in Iraq, while the Iraqis have about 8,000 POW's in Iran and this will in itself attest to the past superiority of the Iranians in the war. [sentence as received]
6. Since some Iranian forces have been martyred in Saddam's torture cells after being captured as POW's the families of these martyrs cannot be permitted into Iraq and also, since many Iranians are imprisoned in very unfavorable conditions in Iraq, their family members could not be allowed to know of these conditions. Also the Iraqi regime always claims Ar-Ramadi and Mussel camps are the only camps for the Iranian POW's. It has refused to admit the existence of the Iranian POW's who are under harsh conditions in the camps outside Baghdad and inside it, near the Iraqi Defence Ministry, and also in the Ar-Rashilamp and Al-Anbar camps.

RED CROSS ASKED TO PRESS BAGHDAD ON POW FAMILIES

LD151750 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 15 Feb (IRNA) -- In an official note to the representative office of the International Red Cross in Tehran on Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry requested the office to urge the Iraqi regime to state its conditions for the exchange of families of Iranian and Iraqi POWs as soon as possible.

The request was extended to the Red Cross office following a setback arising from the Iraqi regime's official reply to the proposal of the Iranian Government for such an exchange.

The Foreign Ministry announcement pointed out that the Iraqi mass media, in an attempt to mislead the world public mind, every now and then quoted Iraqi officials as having agreed to this exchange of POWs families, while, added the announcement, the Baghdad authorities have refused to give an official reply to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, which should have been directed through the Red Cross representative.

The announcement further reiterated that the Iranian Government was prepared to accept at least four family members for each Iraqi POW (chosen from among his parents, brothers, sisters, wife or children). It also noted that the Iranian Government would undertake the expenses of the Iraqi families (during their stay in Iran).

It concluded by reiterating that Turkey and Kuwait were both confirmed by the Iranian Government as neutral territories and checkpoints for exchanging of the families of the POWs.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 788-791

788: 12 Feb Report

LD121734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Communique 788 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. A summary of the operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours is brought to the attention of the Muslim and struggling nation of Iran:

A. Southern parts of the country:

In this region, our combatants defended their positions and launched new attempts to crush the enemy. Saddam's ground forces and tanks, backed by intensive fire, tried to cross the Neysan River but were stopped by our brave combatants south of Neysan and the enemy's efforts were foiled. Enemy forces were pushed back from the south of Neysan by our forces. In this region, four enemy tanks were destroyed.

In the [name indistinct] region, combat against the enemy continued and their renewed attack was stopped. The enemy suffered 230 dead and wounded in yesterday's operations and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier and 2 surveying vehicles were destroyed.

In the (Tarrat) region, enemy patrols tried to penetrate the positions occupied by our forces, backed by intensive fire, but our forces returned their fire and their operations were stopped.

In the region west of Dezful, our forces opened fire on enemy positions, destroying four trenches, one ammunition-carrying vehicle and an observation post belonging to the aggressors. Twenty-three Iraqi military personnel were killed or wounded.

B. Western regions of the country:

On the western fronts of the country, exchange of heavy-weapon fire continued in many places. In the Gilan-e Gharb region, artillery units of the ground forces opened fire on enemy positions. As a result, 1 tank, 1 vehicle, 16 trenches and foxholes, 1 observation post, 1 cannon and an ammunition depot of the aggressors were destroyed and 30 enemy personnel were killed in this operation. In the same region, one of our patrol groups was confronted by the enemy and succeeded in destroying 3 trenches and killing 12 Iraqi personnel. The group returned to its base unharmed.

In the Bansiran region, 2 enemy vehicles were destroyed and 75 of Saddam's mercenaries were killed or wounded when our forces opened fire on enemy positions and trenches.

In Meymak and Konjancham, exchange of heavy fire continued and our forces succeeded in destroying 12 personnel positions and 5 enemy tanks and blocked a supply route.

In Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Islam's combatants destroyed a number of trenches and foxholes and 2 enemy vehicles, killing their respective crews.

Due to the fire of our units in (Khanum Sheykhkan), movement of the enemy's infantry units and truck columns was stopped.

Also, in the Mehran region, during a series of infiltrating operations, Islam's combatants killed more than 30 enemy personnel and destroyed a number of their trenches.

789: 13 Feb Report

LD131848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Communique 789 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The result of battles fought by the selfless combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation with regard to the war fronts is hereby brought to the attention of our dear compatriots:

Yesterday, sporadic exchanges of fire continued in Meymak, Salehabad, Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, the Paveh region and other fronts in the west of the country. The generous sacrifices of the combatants of the ground forces and gendarmerie and the personnel of the tribal irregular warfare group were considerable and their efforts to annihilate the deceived Saddamists were praiseworthy.

As a result of the efforts and the artillery fire by our forces, 5 trucks and more than 10 enemy trenches and foxholes were destroyed and about 10 Saddamists were killed. The powerful combatants of the ground forces in the fronts west of Dezful opened fire on enemy positions, killed 25 Iraqi personnel and destroyed 1 tank, 2 trucks and 8 trenches and foxholes by setting them on fire.

On other southern fronts, the selfless combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran defended their positions while foiling enemy activities by opening heavy-artillery fire on them. They succeeded in inflicting damage and casualties on enemy forces and equipment on these fronts and damaged several of their tanks and personnel carriers.

In the battles and confrontations of the past few days in Bostan, 24 Iraqis were captured by our forces. Due to effective fire by gendarmerie personnel, a communications tower and a mortar belonging to the Iraqi forces on the other side of the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] were destroyed; (?two) enemy soldiers were killed and a number wounded.

Also, our forces destroyed one mortar and a number of heavy- and light-weapons on this front.

The Saddamist aggressors opened artillery fire on parts of Abadan yesterday and inflicted damage. Several of our dear Abadani compatriots were wounded.

During the past 24 hours a number of [words indistinct] belonging to the Iraqi invading armed forces intended to violate the airspace of several of our border points but the awareness and intensive fire of our antiaircraft defense units forced them to flee.

In the battles on 9, 10 and 11 February, 17 of the self-sacrificing personnel of the ground forces and one navy personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. Peace be upon their souls.

790: 14 Feb Report

LD141750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Communique 790 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Exchanges of fire continued on most southern fronts in the last 24 hours.

In the Chazzabeh and Mehran region, exchanges of fire were fierce and our forces bravely defended their positions. By mounting fire on the positions of Saddam's forces and fortifications, they inflicted crushing blows on the enemy.

In the Susangerd region, too, exchanges of heavy fire continued. As a result, 2 ammunition vehicles, 1 personnel carrier and 1 enemy fieldgun were destroyed and 10 of the enemy forces were killed.

In the region west of Dezful, as a result of fire mounted by the artillery of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one enemy ammunition dump, a number of trenches and one field cannon were destroyed.

In the Abadan region, our forces set on fire and destroyed one enemy engineering vehicle, one heavy machinegun and a number of the enemy's infantry foxholes and trenches. During these operations, at least six of the enemy forces were killed or wounded.

By using long-range and heavy weapons, the enemy destroyed residential sectors in Abadan. Residential units were set on fire, resulting in human losses.

In the Dehloran region, our combatants infiltrated the enemy positions and destroyed a number of weapons positions, killing or wounding 45 deceived soldiers of Saddam.

In the western operational regions, too, our able combatants vigilantly defended their positions and, by mounting fire on the enemy positions, inflicted losses on the enemy. In this region, a number of enemy infantry trenches were destroyed. Also, a command jeep and two vehicles belonging to the aggressors were destroyed and some enemy tanks were damaged.

During operations on 12 February, 41 brave personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran sacrificed their blood and joined the angels. God's blessing upon their souls.

791: 15 Feb Report

LD151802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Communique 791 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Beloved and esteemed fighters on the fronts of truth: May your fight be victorious, may your efforts be victorious, and may God be your guardian. It is you who with the complete and comprehensive support of the faithful and Islamic nation are purging the Islamic homeland's sacred soil of the enemy's filthy presence and are adding a new golden page to the country's history and who by the power of your faith are demonstrating your truthfulness. Now, the result of your operations and the battles waged by you Islamic fighters will be brought to the notice of the beloved compatriots:

Yesterday the fighting and exchanges of artillery and other heavy-weapon fire continued in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar and Salehabad. Our fighters' fire destroyed one enemy tank, two engineering trucks, one mortar and three trucks and damaged three of their tanks and personnel carriers. Other enemy losses on these fronts included the destruction of approximately 28 foxholes and trenches, and the death or injury of a number of aggressive Iraqi forces. The number of enemy casualties observed on the Gilan-e Gharb front was seven persons.

At 1240 on 13 February the aggressive Iraqi forces were planning to move some of their forces in part of the Neysan River; their operations were halted by the artillery fire of the ground forces and the Iraqi forces were forced to remain in their defensive positions after suffering several casualties and losses.

Yesterday fighting and sporadic exchanges of fire continued on the Bostan and Chazzabeh fronts and west of Ahvaz. The enemy losses and casualties on the southern fronts yesterday were as follows:

- A. On the Bostan fronts 4 tanks were destroyed and approximately 300 persons were killed or wounded.
- B. On the fronts to the west of Dezful, 13 foxholes and trenches, 1 truck and 1 ammunition dump were destroyed.
- C. On the Abadan fronts, three trenches and part of the enemy's communication tunnel in the occupied part of Khorramshahr were destroyed and some of the Al-Faw oil installations were damaged.

Two of the Iraqi forces surrendered to our forces and asked for asylum. The gendarmerie fighters, with the support of the ground forces' heavy-artillery fire, fired on the enemy positions and units of the aggressive enemy on the Neysan front and, while smashing one motorized column of the forces of Saddam, they destroyed one personnel carrier, one 106-mm gun with its crew and one ammunition truck and killed or wounded several enemy personnel.

On other fronts, the fighting forces of the gendarmerie replied to the Iraqi forces' fire with courage and self-sacrifice and on every front that they were defending they inflicted considerable blows on the enemy.

Yesterday Abadan again came under fire from long-range enemy artillery and suffered some damage and losses.

In the last 24 hours several aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces tried to violate the airspace in several border areas but were forced to flee as a result of the air defense units' fire.

During the 13 February battles, 17 of the heroic fighters of the Ground Forces and two of the fighters of the Gendarmerie and the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. May their path be victorious and may their memory be sanctified.

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS

LD121756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, the following communique has been issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in connection with the victorious operations carried out by the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts of truth and falsehood:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A report on parts of the operations carried out by the self-sacrificing combatants of the army of Islam is hereby announced to the revolutionary and martyr-nurturing Islamic nation:

In a series of coordinated operations carried out by the forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, consisting of guards brothers, Mobilization forces and the heroes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the southern Neysan Axis, an aggressive enemy company was completely routed and a large number of its personnel were killed or wounded. In these operations, six tanks and one BMP personnel carrier of the enemy were completely destroyed and a number of the Saddamist aggressors were captured by our forces.

On the Chazzabeh axis, the self-sacrificing combatants of the army of Islam completely crushed a series of offensive operations carried out by a battalion of the enemy's aggressive forces and killed or wounded more than 230 of them, forcing the rest to flee. In these operations, one tank, one personnel carrier and three heavy vehicles of the defeated enemy were completely destroyed.

At the same time as these operations, the combatants of Islam foiled an enemy attack on the heights of (Boleh) and killed or wounded 80 of them.

In another series of operations carried out last night on the Chazzabeh axis, 3 tanks, 2 106-mm guns together with their vehicles, 1 BMP personnel carrier and 2 (Taifun) vehicles of the Saddamists were completely destroyed; more than 25 of them were killed.

On the western fronts, the devotees of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the early hours of the morning of 10 February, staged a series of successful operations against the (?Kan-e Sakht) base in Iraq and in hand-to-hand fighting inside the trenches of Saddam's forces killed 36 of them and destroyed a large number of the enemy's trenches.

VOICE OF IRAN: SAR DASHT IMAM ASSASSINATED

GF151040 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Reports from Iran say that the opponents of the ruling regime have killed another of Khomeyni's appointed servants.

Mullah Rahmatollah 'Alipur is a Sunni Muslim who had been Sar Dasht Friday imam and governor of that city before being removed from office recently. He was forced out of office as a result of complaints from Sar Dasht residents, his ridiculous speeches and his incessant propaganda supporting Khomeyni's defeated revolution.

According to this report, this servant of Khomeyni had come to Tehran [words indistinct] so that he could be given another assignment in view of his past services. However, the opponents of the regime have snatched this opportunity from him forever.

The regime, which has disseminated the details of 'Alipur's death through its disgraceful radio, has claimed with immense cleverness that by killing people (?like) 'Alipur, [word indistinct] plan to instigate animosity between Shi'ites and Sunnis.